

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

EDITOR: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, 92 KRUISKADE, ROTTERDAM.

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People with sound common sense cannot fail to see that it is really too absurd to withhold from one half of humanity the right to have a share in the making of the laws which all obey, without giving any plausible reason for the exclusion.

Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS,
Amsterdam.



To shut women out from every career, yea to withhold from her a single social right or duty, is an injustice. It is the tyranny of the stronger, it is the sex-struggle more inhuman and more ferocious, and therefore more odious, than the class-struggle.

ETTORE SOCCI, late S.D. deputy
in the Italian Parliament.

Editorial Announcements.

In October letters were sent to all the Presidents of National Suffrage Associations affiliated with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, setting forth the estimates upon printing the Bulletin and asking votes upon the following questions:

1. Shall we publish an eight, or a four page paper?
2. Shall it be issued ten or twelve times during the year?

These queries were dependent upon the main one which was:

3. What subscription price can your country afford to pay?

The votes are not yet all returned, but through the efforts of the Editor, Miss Kramers, and other friends of the paper, the matter has happily adjusted itself so that no further votes will be necessary. Miss Kramers calculates that 400 subscribers at 2 florins per year, will pay the cost of printing an eight page paper, issued 12 times each year. She has already obtained 374 of these, and more will surely be forthcoming, if the activity of the good friends continues. A friend of the cause has agreed to make good the deficit if one occurs, so that we may consider the means are found for publishing the paper. It is therefore settled that the subscription price will be **2 florins per year**. All promised subscribers may now send their subscriptions to Miss Kramers at that price.

We may consider that this little organ of our Alliance has become an established fact and is no longer an experiment. Let me beg of you to do what you can to extend the subscription list and also to send all your national news promptly. United action among us will make our little paper of untold value to our cause.

CARRIE CHAPMANN CATT.

DEAR CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS!

You see from our President's words that the price of the bulletin for this year is fixed now at two guilders Dutch money = 3 Kroner = 3 Sh. 6 d. = 4 frs. You will oblige me by communicating it to old and new subscribers; this may help to bring in the subscriptions which are still wanting. The generous readers who have paid

too much in advance are requested to let me know, if they desire to be reimbursed.

I hope you will prefer the new head and title to the previous one, and I take the opportunity of again asking your excuse for the defects in the December-number, caused by my absence from home. I trust you will not withhold me your help for the future, and generously assist me by sending news in the form of letters or marked newspapers *before the 6th* of each month, especially if they have to be translated or copied. Titles and sample-numbers of women's papers will be very welcome, also suggestions of quotations for the title-page.

Many people tell me they like our *Jus Suffragii*, even from the New World and the Antipodes. Miss Vida Goldstein promised me the other day a lot of subscribers from Australia. So I request you once more to help me by sending or criticizing the news, in order to make our means of international communication as valuable as can be.

Yours sincerely,

MARTINA G. KRAMERS,
Editor.

Miss Sophie Rodger Cunliffe, the International Treasurer, will spend the winter in California, where it is hoped the balmy climate and bright sunshine will restore her to health and strength.

THE BADGE.

The international badge, which should be worn by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is to be ordered from **Mrs. J. Pedersen-Dan, Griffenfeldtsgade 39, Copenhagen: 50 bronze badges 22 sh. 6 d. postage prepaid. Reduction in price for orders exceeding that number. Badges silvered 6 d. each, gilt 10 d., gilt with blue enamel border 1 sh. 10 d., postage to be added, if the above are not sent together with the bronze badges.**

Russia.

The Union for Women's Rights is becoming more and more active, now that the time of the elections is drawing near. Several new appeals

and petitions have been issued by the Central Bureau: to the peasantry, to the educated classes and to the Russian women. A Declaration of Women's Rights is going to be presented to the Douma. Several committees of the Union are now working in St. Petersburg and Moscow: 1. The Red Cross Committee gives help to political prisoners (whose condition, moral and material, is indeed terrible), 2. the Editorial Committee publishes pamphlets on the Women's movement and also post-cards with portraits of social workers, advocates of women's rights, 3. the Bibliographic Committee is going to publish a collection of bibliographical notices concerning books and pamphlets on the women's question, 4. the Propaganda Committee, with the help of provincial inhabitants, is distributing in villages and provincial towns books and pamphlets on the women's question. At the same time several members of the Union, Mmes Stepchkine, Mirovitch, Wolkenstein and others, have been lecturing on the women's movement in Moscow, St. Petersburg and some provincial towns. But our propaganda is often stopped by local authorities. The Governors of provinces are quite independent in their acts: the law does not exist for them. Some have declared themselves against any lectures or meetings whatever within the limits of their domains. Worse than that. We have a terrible famine in the governments of Kazan, Oufa, Samara etc. People are literally dying of hunger. Our Union has lately been startled by the news (given by local papers) that women and children are sold into slavery (prostitution etc.) in some districts of the government of Kazan. Some members of the Union were anxious to go to those places, make investigations and give some help; but they were warned that the local authorities would not allow them to come and interfere in any way in questions of famine or of any other nature.

All the political parties are persecuted in Russia; all with the exception of two: the „Union of Russian Men” (the black hundred), enemies of constitutional government and organizers of programs, and of the „Union of 17 October”, which is in sympathy with these. The Constitutional Democrats are persecuted even more than the Social Democrats and the Social Revolutionaries; the latter, being expected to use violent measures, seem much less dangerous to the Government than the Constitutional Democrats, who act in the name of law and justice.

The election-campaign is a mockery here. The Government helps with all its might the reaction, and persecutes all progressive elements.

Moscow, 5 Jan. 1907.
ZÉNÉIDE MIROVITCH.

The Central Committee of the R. U. W. Rights has begged all progressive parties which have included women's political and civic equalisation in their programs to speak in favour of the necessity of women's suffrage at the electoral meetings.

The Centr. Comm. of the Soc.-Democratic party resolved to print a special pamphlet concerning this question, including it in its own political literature.

Equal rights for women are included in the platform of the Tailers group, that has replaced the parliamentary group of the same name and has attracted the general sympathy.

Its Central Committee is composed of members of both sexes, as the Centr. Committees of all

progressive parties professing the principle of equality of the sexes.

The Senate has „explained” the law to this effect that the peasant-women landowners have the right of decisive vote at the family-meetings where such a right is customary in the country.

The peasant-women have practically obtained this right a very long time since, and in the current year, in several parts of the Vjatka province they took part in the elections of the electors, who in their turn elected the Douma-members.

The new project of reform for self-government in Poland will guarantee the Polish women the right of electing the Zemstvo members.

At the time of the first Douma-elections, a numerous group of women possessing the electoral qualifications asked admission to the electoral town-commissions to deliver personally the lists of candidates. Their nominations were not accepted, the bearers having no right to vote. However this little pacific manifestation made some impression.

MARIE CHEKOFF.

Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, editor of the Anglo-Russian appearing in London, gives in his January-issue an exhaustive and convincing refutation of the oft-repeated „military argument” against women's suffrage.

United States.

In November the North American Review, came out editorially for Woman Suffrage. We in the United States felt that this was a great gain for us, but we did not then realize how helpful this important magazine would be to us. Not content with its first strong editorial early in October, the Review has had in each subsequent issue (it is published twice a month) in its editorial pages, something helpful to us.

In the issue of Dec. 7 appears an article upon „Woman Suffrage in Colorado”, based upon a study of the practical workings of the franchise for women, made in Pueblo, the second largest city of Colorado, by Mr. Lawrence Lewis, a close student of political conditions there.

The Editor says: The familiar prediction that women would not exercise the privilege is quickly and effectually disposed of by the simple fact that since 1894 (the year the Colorado women were enfranchised) they have cast never less than 40 per cent of the total number of votes polled in the entire State.” From a table of numbers voting in different districts in Pueblo, the Editor deduces the following: „The percentage of registered voters actually polled was slightly larger in the better neighborhoods.” This certainly has a bearing, at least, upon the stock assertion that respectable women will stay at home, and that only disreputable females under coercion, will actually go to the polls.

Bribery and corruption have been rife in all Colorado cities so long, that the most enthusiastic reformers did not anticipate immediate extinction of these evils to result from the enlargement of the franchise privilege; but Pueblo's latest municipal election, „was regarded even by politicians as the most nearly honest election in years.”

Mr. Lewis says: „A very noteworthy change wrought by woman suffrage has been the raising of the requirement as to moral character, judged

solely by their private lives, of men elected, especially to offices in our cities. Since the extension of the franchise to women, political parties have learned the inadvisability of nominating for public offices drunkards, notorious libertines, gamblers, liquor-dealers, and men who engage in similar, discredited occupations, because the women almost always vote them down.”

As a final comment the Editor says; „For ourselves we do not hesitate to pronounce the results distinctly confirmatory of our original declaration of faith in the efficacy of woman suffrage, „especially in purifying the ballot and establishing and maintaining lofty standards as to the qualifications required of candidates for public office.”

On the 15th of December President Roosevelt, by his own suggestion, received, the Treasurer of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, at the White House. This is the first occasion upon which a President of the United States has taken such an interest in the movement as to wish to talk with one of our officers to get information concerning the state of our movement. This information Mrs. Upton was well qualified to give, and the President promised to read the printed matter on the subject which it was arranged should be sent to him from our National Headquarters, of which Mrs. Upton has charge.

The next Convention of the Woman Suffrage Assoc. will be held at Chicago, February 14th—19th 1907. It will be the 39th Annual meeting of the organization, and the first occasion of the kind in all these years at which the business and the deliberations have not been guided and inspired by the presence of Susan B. Anthony.

It will be truly a meeting in memory of her. On her birthday, February 15, all three sessions will bear special reference to her life and work. It is expected the Convention will adopt a plan for a suitable memorial to the great leader, and many hope that this will take the form of a large fund to carry forward the work to which she gave her wonderful life.

On the 19th of November at its annual convention at Minneapolis, that immense body of working men, the American Federation of Labor, with but one dissenting vote, passed a resolution asking Congress to submit to the various State-legislatures an amendment to the National Constitution giving the ballot to the women of the United States. Such action on the part of an association whose membership is composed so largely of voters, is likely to influence our political representatives and we rejoice greatly over it.

The College Equal Suffrage League, an organization composed of College women, has employed a trained statistician. Miss Sumner, to thoroughly investigate the results of woman suffrage in Colorado. This state has the largest population of any American State granting full suffrage to women. The research will be thorough-going and will be conducted in an impartial manner. She has already been engaged in the work for three months, and many more will be consumed before the work is completed. The result will be of interest to the whole world.

Norway

Fru Staatsministerinde F. M. Qvam, the President of the L. K. S. F. (National Woman Suffrage Association) of Norway, writes a most kind letter, for which unfortunately the bulletin does not afford space enough, to recommend other nations the sending of a circular to get subscribers to this bulletin and the printing of stationery with our badge.

The W. S. A. at Skien has celebrated its five years' existence in a most appropriate way with a festive reunion of the members.

From Eidsvold comes a proposal to alter the Constitution of the L. K. S. F., as it has grown so much of late that the old statutes will no longer do for such a powerful organisation. In February the Annual Meeting will have to decide this.

How the law deals with women, as long as they themselves have no share in making it, is most clearly shown by factory-legislation exclusively for women. The editor of Nylaende, Gina Krog, publishes the result of an inquiry instituted by herself and Dr. Maikki Friberg on the working of limitations for women's work only, while men's work is not regulated. Miss Augusta Fickert from Vienna approves of the institution, Miss Anna Bruun from Copenhagen and Mrs Rutgers-Hoitsema from The Hague are against it. The latter especially gives forcible reasons for her conviction and brings abundant statistics as proof. In the January-number the inquiry is proceeded with. Miss Popelin declares that she is against all factory-legislation, for men as well as for women. Dr. Maikki Friberg and Miss Anna Lindhagen, inspector of children's homes, are of the same opinion as Mme Martin from Paris, viz. that limitations for women only, operate more as a handicap in competition than as a protection.

Fru Qvam writes about the uncertainty of the position of married women in Post- and Telegraph-service. „Do you believe”, she terminates, „that such stipulations would have been made, if the women of Norway had been in possession of political suffrage?”

Great Britain.

The banquet given to the released suffragists on 11 Dec. marks not only an advance in the movement, but an advance in line. The note of the meeting unquestionably was unity of women of all classes and parties, to obtain the removal of the sex disability common to them all, from peereesses to mill-hands. Mrs. Fawcett gave one of those splendid addresses for which she is famous, and the usual loyal toasts having been given, Miss Elizabeth Robins, in a clever speech, proposed the toast of the evening, „Success to Woman Suffrage”. It was received with ringing cheers, and the singing of „For they are jolly good fellows.” Point after point in the various speeches was received with enthusiastic applause; but we can only give a *mot* from each. Mrs. Fawcett, „The new Suffragists have put new life into the old Suffragists, they have fanned the spark into a flame.” Miss E. Robins, „Women are at last learning to look to women for help.” Miss I. O. Ford, „There is a stronger force behind

the Woman Movement than behind the Government. Our policy is, and will continue to be, directed against governments, and not against individual members." Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, "Ours is a movement of attack, not of persuasion. What is the use of continuing to ask, when women whom we cannot hope to rival in eloquence have asked for 40 years? The W.S.P.U. arose out of the sufferings of women." Sir Charles McLaren, in proposing the Chair, said, "This is a revolution. The kid-glove-men must realise that revolutions cannot be made with rose water." Mr. Zangwill, in seconding, said: "There is absolutely no case against Woman Suffrage. The opposition depends entirely on empty abuse of the plaintiff." Letters and telegrams from Suffrage leaders at home and abroad were read, and sympathetic references were made to those supporters of the Movement who have passed away.

A meeting was held at the House of Commons on December the 24th for the purpose of forming a committee of those Liberal members who are in favour of women's suffrage. A resolution was unanimously carried that a committee be formed for the furtherance of women's suffrage, and that every Liberal member favourable to the movement be invited to become a member of the committee. The following objects were agreed upon:—

1. To press upon the Government and the House of Commons the necessity, during the present Parliament, of extending the franchise to women on the same terms as to men.

2. To educate public opinion on the question, and especially to advocate it when addressing meetings in their constituencies.

3. To take Parliamentary action on every possible occasion, and to induce as many members as possible to ballot for the introduction of a Suffrage Bill or motion next session.

An executive committee was appointed.

Sir Charles McLaren, M.P., is the chairman, and the Hon. Geoffrey Howard M.P., the secretary. Seventy Liberal members of Parliament have now formed the committee.

Women's Suffrage Declaration Committees are now actively at work in various parts of the country.

Mr. Keir Hardie's Bill for Women's enfranchisement has only one clause, which reads thus:

"From and after the passing of this Act, in all Acts relating to the qualifications and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the election of members of Parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender, the same shall be held to include women for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters and to vote in such election, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding."

Miss Llewellyn Davies, General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, writes to the *Tribune* of December 6th, suggesting that the following clause be added to Mr. Keir Hardie's Bill "Provided that in the case of husband and wife living together in the same dwelling house or in the same lodgings, if either is qualified, in respect thereof both shall be deemed to be so qualified."

The Daily News has received a letter signed by the chairman (Mr. Walter S. B. McLaren) and the secretaries (Miss Edith Palliser and Miss Frances Sterling), stating that at a largely attended meeting

of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Miss Llewellyn Davies' letter was carefully considered. As a result they write: "The object and principle of the Union is to obtain the franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. In other words, to pass a law to remove the disqualification of sex, and, consequently, as a necessary and inseparable result, any disqualification which may attach to marriage in the matter. The Franchise Law does not distinguish between married and unmarried men, and it must not do so between married and unmarried women. No measure can therefore satisfy the Union which does not clearly remove disqualification from married women."

"It has never been, and it is not now the policy of the Union to try to alter the existing qualifications for the franchise. It is doubtless true that they are full of anomalies, that there are difficulties in getting a vote, and that the law should be simplified. But what women are striving for is the simple removal of the disability of sex as above defined, and they are not prepared to enter on the additional task of altering the qualifications of male voters. Men can do that for themselves. It is for this reason that the Union is resolutely opposed to agitating for Adult Suffrage... The reform of the franchise is not the object for which women are working. Their object is to let women come in on the present basis, and they are convinced that it would be a fatal policy to depart from that simple demand."

"It is on this simple issue that over 400 members of Parliament have in the main pledged themselves; it is to this demand that the Prime Minister has given his cordial assent. It is in support of this that the national declaration promoted by Miss Clementina Black is being signed, and the Union is convinced that a Bill clearly drawn on this line has the best chance of passing through Parliament. When such a Bill gets into Committee, Miss Davies can doubtless find some member to move the clause she proposes; but [the Bill for the purpose of the second reading should ask the judgment of the House on the clearly stated principle of the removal of the disability of sex and marriage."

"With regard to the enfranchising effect of such a Bill, Mr. Keir Hardie states that, apart from the latch-key lodger franchise, his Bill would give votes to at least 1,250,000 women; and both Miss Davies and he agree in stating that 90 per cent. would belong to the working classes. This should dispose of the objection that the Bill is for the few, and favours the rich at the expense of the poor."

Letter to the editor of "The Daily News".

Sir, — "The synopsis of the letter signed by the Chairman and Secretaries of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which appears in your issue of to-day, demonstrates very clearly the curious amount of misunderstanding at present existing as to the meaning of the words "to obtain the franchise for women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men." The avowed object of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, as here stated, is limited to removing the disqualification of sex."

The writers then proceed to state: "The franchise law does not distinguish between married and unmarried men, and it must not do so between married and unmarried women."

Unfortunately, the law does so distinguish, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies notwithstanding, will continue to do so until the

law of coverture is abolished. It cannot be too often or too clearly insisted upon that the disqualification of sex and the disqualification of marriage are not one and the same thing. Logically, the first should include the second, but legally it does not do so.

It is impossible to conceive that Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, Miss Palliser, and Miss Sterling are ignorant of the two disqualifications for the enfranchisement of women which exist. Why do they not openly acknowledge the existence of the law of coverture, and in the interests of the working classes, the majority of whose women are married, strenuously agitate for the abolition of this law?

"The Union is resolutely opposed to agitating for adult suffrage."

Why? On the simple, broad, democratic basis of adult suffrage all disqualifications of all adults (except the criminal and lunacy disqualifications) would be removed. Is this too democratic a measure for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to support?

Signed, on behalf of the Adult Suffrage Society,

MARGARET G. BONDFIELD, President.

MABEL G. GODDEN.

KATHLEEN B. KOUGH, Joint Secretaries.

122, Gower-Street, W.C., Dec. 20th.

On the evening of December 13th a "Votes for Women" Demonstration was held at the Strangers' Entrance to the House of Commons, organised by the Manchester Branch of the W.S.P.U. The leader, Mrs. Bains, addressed the working women from the East End, and a large crowd quickly collecting blocked the traffic. The police arrested Mrs. Morissey, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Davies (all from Manchester, Salford and Stockport) and Mrs. Mc. Dougall of New South Wales, who, though possessing the vote, is helping English-women in their struggle for it. The husbands of all the arrested women are in full sympathy with the suffrage agitation, and warmly approve the action of their wives. The five prisoners, refusing to pay fines, were sent to Holloway for fourteen days.

Eleven woman suffragists were arrested at the House of Commons on 17 December: Miss Annie G. Fisher, of London; Mrs. Emma Hillier, Liverpool; Mrs. Mary K. Hill, Cardiff; Miss Mary F. Steel, Canning Town; Mrs. Elizabeth Wells, Birmingham; Miss Olivia Smith, London; Miss Laura Richardson, London; Miss Patricia Woodlock, Liverpool; Mrs. Ada Chatterton, Manchester; Mrs. Jennie Baines, Stockport; Miss Marry Smith, Manchester. They were brought on Tuesday before Mr. Horace Smith, who seemed a little nervous after his previous experiences. On one of the ladies inquiring whether there was any law existing prohibiting women from going to the House of Commons, he could only reply incoherently, "Yes, yes! I over-rule your question." Mr. Muskett, who appeared on behalf of the Treasury, was instructed by the Commissioner of Police to say that he had no desire that any sentence should be imposed on "these persons" such as would, if they declined to pay the fine, confine them to prison over the Christmas holidays. The sentence, however, was twenty shillings or fourteen days' imprisonment. As may be expected, the accused chose the alternative of prison. Subsequently, however, Mrs. Hill was released, the fine having been paid by her relatives without her knowledge.

On the evening of December 20th another attempt to enter the House of Commons was successfully carried out, and five Suffragists were

arrested: Miss Fraser (Glasgow), Miss Ivy Heppel (Birmingham), Miss Jones (Manchester), Mrs. Drummond (London), and Mrs. Mary Keating (Cardiff). This brings the number of Suffragists arrested and imprisoned during one week up to twenty, the demonstrators being chiefly members of provincial branches of the W.S.P.U. A social evening was organised to take place at the Caxton Hall on December 29th, to welcome those prisoners whose sentences expired on that date.

Four more of the women suffragists who were sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment for creating a disturbance in Palace Yard were released from Holloway Prison 3 Jan. They were: Mrs. Flora Drummond, of Manchester; Miss Ivy Heppel, of Bristol; Mrs. Martha Jones, of Salford; Miss Ann Fraser, of Glasgow.

Mrs. Hill, who was sentenced on this occasion to three weeks as a second offender, had still another week to serve.

After a cordial greeting they all drove to Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, where a breakfast was served to mark the event.

The released ladies were all in good health, and Mrs. Drummond stated that their period of incarceration had not damped their ardour for the cause. She further stated that Holloway had been no punishment to her as an agitator.

A private letter, written by Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., and published by his correspondent in the *Labour Leader* of December 21st, shows that in view of the prominent place given by the Labour Party to Woman Suffrage on their programme for next Session, he considers the W.S.P.U. would do well to support actively the candidature of Labour men at bye-elections, and not rest satisfied with merely opposing Liberal Members. The leaders of the W.S.P.U., however, have lately declared that it serves the interests of women best that they should remain independent of all parties until some Government undertakes to pass their measure.

Germany.

The unexpected dissolution of the German Parliament has awakened much political interest in the whole Empire, and at the same time it has clearly shown that five years' work of the Deutsche Verband für Frauenstimmrecht (Nat. German W.S.A.) have brought to the women a good deal of political interest and discipline. As soon as the fact of the dissolution of the old House and the necessity of electing a new one was known, letters from all parts of the country came to the officers with inquiries from the members: what are we going to do? How can we work and be useful? Not less was the impulse of the organizing parties to secure help from the women in their different constituencies. Some constituencies have been offered to our prominent members to be entirely organized by them, to prepare the election of candidates, who of course are well-known friends of women-suffrage.

The committee of our N. W. S. A. of course instantly published a program for the work of the members, and many of them are diligently employed in all sorts of business connected with the campaign to come; this last fortnight will be given to the agitation all over the country, where the appearance of female politicians will prove to be a new thing in many places, while the larger towns have already become accustomed to this novelty.

We are sorry to say, that many more hands are required than we can dispose of.

Until now the political gazette for women (Parlamentarische Beilage d. Frauenbewegung) contained news about legal reforms of all kinds in the position of women, but now the interest in the suffrage movement has become so predominant, that this fortnightly gazette is changed into a monthly of double contents and dedicated to suffrage alone. Of course the publication of our International Bulletin was a great support, or even stimulus for this metamorphosis, yet we may say that a general need finds itself satisfied by the edition of the "Deutsche Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht", which at the same time serves as organ of publication for the German suffrage societies. It is connected as before with the radical women's paper "die Frauenbewegung" and edited as before by the president of the Deutsche Verband für Frauenstimmrecht.

The Deutsche Verband für Frauenstimmrecht (Germ. W.S.A.) applied to the Reichstag in a petition, asking acknowledgement of women's right to vote according to the German constitution, which gives suffrage to "every German". So the Verband für Frauenstimmrecht asks for a law expressing distinctly, that both sexes are equally authorized to vote and be elected.

This petition to the Reichstag (Parliament), asking for a clear stipulation of the constitutional right to vote and be elected for the female population, has of course perished with the late parliament, but it stands waiting at the doors of the new House & will enter it again with the new representatives.

DR. ANITA AUGSPURG.

Sweden.

The Central Committee of the General Association for Woman Suffrage will hold its annual meeting in Karlstad on the 8th and 9th of January. Every local society has a member in the Central Committee, and the majority of the 72 societies send their delegates to the meeting. This means a good deal of sacrifice of time and money, the distances in our vast country being enormous and the societies in general not being able to pay the delegates' expenses. This year the interest is greater than ever. That is natural enough, as our movement has taken a great stride forward since the last general meeting. The monster petition has roused many women. It is now closed and the result is far above 100000 signatures. The exact number will appear in the next issue of Jus Suffragii. It is a well-known psychological fact that we cherish the object of our devotion, in proportion to our sacrifices for it; and the organized work for the petition and the collecting of names have widened and intensified the zeal for suffrage among the Swedish women. One of the questions at the central meeting will be, to which forum the mass-petition is to be presented in order to make the greatest effect possible.

Another question is, *when* we are to urge our claim to eligibility. It has been tacitly understood that we would claim it; but at the beginning of the work, we saw the goal at so far a distance, that the attaining of suffrage seemed far off yet. But the pace has been brisker than we could have hoped. For my part, I think now that it

would have been wise to claim eligibility at the same time as the franchise, though I agree with those among us who maintain that, with that condition, our cause would not have made such rapid progress in public opinion as it has now. The dispute is idle, since we cannot alter the fact. Now the question is, *when* we are to hoist our flag with the inscription: "eligibility".

Our most serious debate will be as to the attitude of our organization towards the newly awakened interest of the women of the Labour Party for woman suffrage. Until now, only a small minority of them has worked with us, because the majority obeyed the party-leaders, who proclaimed that women's work for suffrage would delay the solution of the same problem for the working-men. Now that the Labour Party has expressed its firm resolution to work for women's franchise and eligibility, the working-women's interest for their own question is no longer checked by party-discipline, but follows its own natural bent. The consequence will be that they either organize new suffrage-societies of their own, or unite with the already existing ones. There lies the question; and we hope that it will be possible to overcome the lurking distrust between different classes of society and unite our efforts.

Until now the Cabinet has not paid any attention to the general wish of the country to know the outlines of the Government Suffrage Bill. But we are quite sure that women's suffrage does not form part of it. We shall have to fight our way with the help of private bills.

ANNA WHITLOCK.

The Stockholm Universal Women's League (Allmänna Kvinnoklubb) and the League of Women's Trades Unions (Kvinnornas Fackförbund) hold a congress for the interests of women from the working-classes at Stockholm from 27 to 30 Jan. Delegates from all social-democratic clubs, trades unions and national women's organisations have been invited; and great affluence is expected to this first convention for women's interests held by women of the labouring classes.

The two conveners of the congress, the above-named Leagues, have shown great zeal in collecting signatures for the monster-petition to Parliament, which demands the suffrage for women.

France.

On 21 December the Club of Socialist Members of Parliament received a deputation of women from the "Solidarité des Femmes." Madeleine Pelletier M. D., its president, reminded the deputies of the decision of the socialist congress at Limoges that the socialists were to introduce a bill for woman suffrage this year. "Moreover", she said, "the enfranchisement of women will prove a great benefit for the socialist party, as it is the best mode of political education, and as soon as the working women have come to understand their real interests, they will flock to join the labor party". Jaurès assured the delegation that very soon the necessary steps will be taken. He said: "The argument of clericalism, so often used as a bogey, loses its force day by day; and the indifference shown by the French nation on the subject of the separation of church and state is a conclusive proof of this."

After some more conversation, the deputation retired, well satisfied with the promises and assurances of the socialist deputies.

The press made as much ado about this delegation, as if it were a repetition of the arrestations of "suffragettes" in London.

The National Council of Women of France met in Paris on November 18th. One of the newly affiliated societies was the Association for Woman Suffrage, of which Mme Hubertine Auclert is the president.

A new section is added to the work of the National Council, being that of woman suffrage. Mme Auclert was requested to organise its work.

Belgium.

The lectures given by Martina Kramers at the university, and the general agitation for the enfranchisement of women in Europe, especially Jaurès' promises to the French Suffragists, have made possible the formation of a National Woman Suffrage Association in Belgium. On 22 Dec. at Brussels it adopted a draft for its constitution and elected provisional officers. Immediately the press published its formation, and already the next week reporters came to interview the provisional President on her intentions and future proceedings.

Let us hope that the new Association may prosper and, in time, join the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

The Congress of Socialist Women held at Brussels on Dec. 23rd unanimously carried this resolution: "The socialist members of the Chamber are to consult the Federation of Soc. Women on: 1. their attitude in case a woman suffrage bill should be presented in the Chamber, 2. the right moment of introducing a bill for woman suffrage."

The Netherlands.

The news from our N. W. S. A. is not of great interest this time, since it speaks of internal dissensions more than of victories won.

Our sisters in foreign countries will be pleased to hear that, at our N. W. S. A.'s annual meeting in December, the international congress of the I. W. S. All. in 1908 formed the first object of our solicitude. A Central Committee was instituted, whose 5 members are each to be chairman of a sub-committee, in order to have every detail of the reception cared for as well as this was done in Denmark last summer. The date of the congress was fixed for the second half of June, and the place of meeting is Amsterdam.

A serious dissension in our National Assoc. was caused by the election of Officers. A group of members was not satisfied with the President and her friends in the Executive; and they followed unusual methods in order to have them replaced by so-called "moderates". However this group only obtained $\frac{1}{4}$ of the votes cast at the election of Officers, or $\frac{1}{10}$ of the total number of members, and so the storm passed over, and Doctor Aletta Jacobs is to remain our President for some time more. The annual meeting was not very edifying nor very effective for our propaganda this time; yet a pleasant feature was the presence of Maria Lanzilotti as a fraternal delegate from the Italian

W. S. A. whose greetings she brought us. It is always a good thing to be reminded of our international solidarity by visits from fraternal delegates from other countries.

Italy.

The National Committee for Woman Suffrage or P. S. F. (which initials mean comitato Per il Suffragio Femminile) has now an official organ, the daily paper La Vita, which appears in Rome. It will publish reports and agendas of the Monday-meetings of the Committee in Rome. Yet the editor is not strictly limited to the proceedings nor to the opinions of the Committee, for in La Vita of 25 November she criticizes one of the most fundamental principles of the national woman-suffrage-organization, viz. that it shall be non-partisan. Meanwhile the P. S. F. is trying to become as truly national and representative as possible, and is now busy drawing up its Constitution and Standing orders.

In Milan, Turin, Naples and Bari the women are as active as in Rome, nor do the men lack interest for the cause. The P. S. F. is busy establishing a Parliamentary Committee and a Lawyers' Committee for woman suffrage.

Austria.

Das Herrenhaus hat nun auch die Wahlreformvorlage angenommen; seine Zustimmung musste aber durch wertvolle Zugeständnisse erkauft werden.

Das gegenwärtige Abgeordnetenhaus beendet mit Schluss dieses Monats seine gesetzliche Lebensdauer und im Frühjahr dürften die Neuwahlen stattfinden. Schon gegenwärtig hat die Wahlbewegung an vielen Orten eingesetzt und das Bestreben der kleineren Fraktionen sich zu grösseren, vor allem nationalen, Parteien zusammenzuschliessen tritt vielfach zu Tage.

Der niederösterreichische Landtag hat sich bereit ein Gesetz zu beschliessen, welches den Reichsratswählern dieses Kronlandes die Wahlpflicht auferlegt. Die herrschende, christlichsoziale Partei hofft jedenfalls durch die Statueierung der Wahlpflicht ihre Herrschaft zu sichern und Agitationsgelder zu sparen. Die Wahlpflicht in die Wahlreformvorlage selbst aufzunehmen und sie auf diese Art für das ganze Reich verbindlich zu machen, wurde im Ausschusse und im Abgeordnetenhaus abgelehnt; man überliess es den Landtagen, sie für den Bereich der einzelnen Kronländer einzuführen oder nicht. Wir werden also neben dem allgemeinen Wahlrechte in allen Ländern, auch den Wahlzwang in einzelnen derselben haben.

Unser Frauenstimmrechtsverein hat die behördliche Genehmigung bis jetzt noch nicht erhalten; der bürokratische Apparat arbeitet langsam — ich denke das ist keine bloss österreichische Spezialität.

HENRIETTE HERZFELDER.

In the name of the German Association for the Progress of Women (Frauenfortschritt) at Prague, the deputy Dr. Oifer presented to the Chamber on the 13th of November the following petition:

"The undersigned representatives of the German A. P. W. at Prague, whose constitution says that the Association has for its object "to promote women's welfare, education and rights", beg to inform your House that they see in § 30 of the

Law on Associations,—which equalizes the women of Austria with minors, excluding them from political unions,—a limitation detrimental to the welfare and the education of women; considering that women, like men, can only effectively represent their highest interests in life personally in political organisations, and that only by organisation they can gain political education. They also feel that this antiquated law is humiliating to women, and constitutes an actual limitation of their right to free expression of opinions.

Therefore the undersigned representatives of the said Association, consisting of 1175 male and female members, urgently request the House to decide the removal of the word "females" from § 30 of the said law."

Im letzten Momente vor der Abstimmung in dem österreichischen Parlamente und in der Vorahnung, dass sie die Frauen von dem Wahlrechte ausschliessen würde, haben die böhmischen Frauen den Entschluss gefasst von der Regierung wenigstens das Versprechen zu erzwingen, dass in der nächsten Zukunft das Frauenwahlrecht behandelt wird. Zu diesem Zwecke haben sie am 11. November eine Protestversammlung einberufen, die überaus zahlreich besucht war und nachstehende Resolution annahm:

„Die böhmischen Frauen ersuchen das Abgeordnetenhause, es möge schon jetzt das Wahlrecht auch den Frauen geben. In jedem Falle aber ersuchen wir um Annahme des Resolutionsantrages, mit dem die hohe Regierung aufgefordert wird, die Erhebungen und nötigen vorbereitenden Schritte behufs Vorlage eines Gesetzentwurfes, betreffend das Wahlrecht der Frauen, einzuleiten, und sodann mit möglichster Beschleunigung den Gesetzentwurf zu unterbreiten.“

Dieselbe wurde auch tatsächlich, nach der Abstimmung des Wahlgesetzes, von dem Parlamente am 1. Dezember 1906 akzeptiert.

Hungary.

The past weeks did not bring any remarkable work. Although we were occupied with the municipal elections we have still a long prospect before us, until we gain our end. Our N. W. S. A. (Feministenverein) is going to send to Parliament a petition for municipal suffrage for women on the same terms as for men.

There is cause for rejoicing in the growth of interest for our cause in the country outside the capital. The literature on women's rights has lately been enriched by Prof. Dr. Oliver Eötvényi Nagy's work, *The Problems of the Franchise*, which contains a good store of information, and arrives at the conclusion that Hungary should accord the franchise to its women workers on an educational basis, without pausing to see what other countries do. Although this is not exactly our wish, it is a good thing that interest in the question should be kept alive, as next autumn we may expect a proposal to reform the franchise-laws. We are beginning now to collect signatures to demand immediate treatment of a bill for woman suffrage already before Parliament.

We may expect that 1907 will be a conspicuous year in the annals of Hungarian feminism. Our suffragists will find a strong weapon in their struggle for the franchise in the first review for women's rights started in Hungary, called *Anő és a társadalom*.

Denmark.

The Danish Woman Suffrage Association — founded in 1902 in its present shape, and member of the Int. Wom. Suffr. Alliance since 1904 — has always been an Association of Delegates representing 14 guilds, trade-unions and other organizations, all bent on getting suffrage, and each electing two Delegates to work for it in the said Association. Since January 1905 some pure suffrage organizations have entered. „Politisk Kvinneforening” (Politischer Frauenverein) was the first of these. Now this organization has left the D. W. S. A. It has the ambition to make itself the centre for a new association and probably intends to make propaganda for Woman-Suffrage in the country-towns. It had its first public meeting on December 12th, after having declared itself, on a previous general meeting, independent of the above-named association, and changing its name into: „Copenhagen's Woman Suffrage Association.”

It had indeed a very promising beginning 12 Dec. The hall was crowded; many new members joined the 700 it already had. Men were admitted to membership. Some distinguished members of the Underhouse were speakers and gave their views on the political situation in reference to Woman Suffrage. The time is propitious for interest in suffrage meetings, as a bill has been submitted to the two Tings (Landsting and Folketing = Upperhouse & Underhouse) which aims at the reform of our Suffrage law. The reading in both Tings is finished, and a Joint Committee (15 members of each House) is now going to work to solve the questions.

One of the members, a well-known socialistic politician, *H. Borgbjerg*, warned us against every compromise. All or nothing. The Upperhouse would certainly be willing to give the 50,000 tax-paying unmarried, independent women municipal suffrage, excluding married women. But all the 700,000 Danish women ought to have the franchise, and if they make the compromise now, it might last a couple of decenniums till another suffrage-reform bill will be proposed. But if the whole bill be refused, — as it most probably will, — within one or two years, we may get a law which would be by far more favorable to us.

Mr. Hermann Trier, for many years President of the Underhouse, said, speaking of Woman Suffrage: „Of course the women should have it, even if it should work to the advantage of the conservative party and should have a quite reactionary effect at first. This is only the fault of the men themselves; so it serves them right. They have kept the women as a sort of slaves, and this may have given them slavish souls; it will certainly take time to shake off their tendency to subjection. Still, in spite of this fear for strengthening conservatism, we are bound to give women municipal suffrage.”

Marie Christensen, President of the maid-servants organization, hoped, that when women get the suffrage, the maid-servants may not be excluded, as the men-servants are now. The two gentlemen from the Underhouse promised they would do all that was possible to get the suffrage-law extended to all women.

It was a pleasure to witness the eagerness of the highly interested audience, and to see what good fruits the congress of this summer has borne to our country.